

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## IMB head: CP critical to missions effort

DALLAS (BP) — Without Cooperative Program (CP) support, Southern Baptists would not have the International Mission Board (IMB), the largest evangelical mission entity in existence, Tom Elliff, the IMB's new president, told the Florida Baptist Witness after his unanimous election by trustees meeting on March 16 in Dallas.

"We wouldn't have our 5,000 boots on the ground," Elliff said of the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' primary funding channel for missions and ministry. "We wouldn't have our International Mission Board if it wasn't for that."

Asked whether the Cooperative Program, which was created 86 years ago, remains effective in getting funds to the international mission field, Elliff said, "I do not believe that the CP is antiquated."

Elliff had said in his acceptance speech that Southern Baptists "cannot fulfill the Great Commission without being consumed with the Great Commission theme in the days ahead," but also "the International Mission Board does not operate in a vacuum."

With reference to the Cooperative Program, Elliff told trustees, "[T]he simple truth behind CP [is] that we learned a long time ago we can do things together better than we can alone, so churches [that] give regularly through CP and then the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering [are] giving beyond themselves."

Elliff pledged, "by God's grace and your prayers and the heart commitment of Southern Baptists everywhere," to introduce a plan at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Phoenix in June to partner with local churches to reach the 3,800 unengaged people groups worldwide with the Gospel.

Elliff, in a brief post-election interview with the Florida Baptist Witness, the newsjournal of the Florida Baptist Convention, admitted there can be confusion about the role of Southern Baptist churches in relation to support of the Cooperative Program, which provides support to IMB while the IMB is asking churches at the same time to partner with them.

"Hearing me say that we want to involve churches in no way means that I want to diminish the emphasis on the Cooperative Program," Elliff told the Witness. "Part of the value the IMB can add to the whole equation is how [churches] can pray for and strategize and reach with and partner with us to reach into these dark arenas where there are unengaged people groups."



PRAYING FOR NEW LEADER — Trustees of the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention and others gather around Tom and Jeannie Elliff to pray for them after Tom Elliff's unanimous March 16 election as the new IMB president during the trustees' meeting in Dallas. Soon after his election, Elliff issued a strong endorsement of the Cooperative Program. (BP photo)

As churches are engaged, "they begin to see the value of the IMB, they begin to see the value of the Cooperative Program," said Elliff, further noting that the SBC's six seminaries and the North American Mission Board are "certainly part of this equation. They're all essential in terms of reaching people, in reaching the unreached."

However, Elliff said, "I do believe that it is unrealistic to believe that we will receive enough money through the CP and the Lottie Moon Christmas offering to send enough missionaries out in the world to take care of the task. "Churches are going to have to be a part of the equation. There is no way we are going to employ enough people to do this."

David Uth, an IMB trustee and senior pastor of First Church in Orlando, said he shares Elliff's desire to reach the unengaged people groups with the Gospel and is encouraged by his affirmation of the Cooperative Program.

"I think it's going to be imperative for us to participate together in the Cooperative Program," Uth, who also is president of the Florida Baptist Convention, told the Witness.

"That may look different in the days to come than it does today or it has in the past, but if the effect is that we are able to do more to reach the nations, that we are able to do more to disciple the nations, then 'hallelujah,' that's the goal."

"I think some of the changes that we see are simply a result of our times and a result

of the changing environment of churches, the landscape of our churches, [and] the landscape of our world," Uth said.

Calling the Cooperative Program a "time-honored" way to engage the nations, Uth said everything is subject to adaptation but he does not agree with decreasing CP support in order to increase support for mission partnerships or offerings.

"Increase them all," he said. When Uth was elected as president of the Florida convention last November, he challenged Florida Baptist churches to follow the example of his church which promised to increase its giving to the Cooperative Program by at least a quarter of a percent.

"I've also proposed at our church that we ramp up our missions giving," he said.

First Church, Orlando, gave an unprecedented \$5.6 million in donations and pledges in a spontaneous offering March 12-13 for the homeless, which Uth described as a visible declaration of the congregation's willingness to give sacrificially even in a poor economy.

"It's not about, 'I'm going to give to this, but not that.' I think it's more about, 'We're going to give more and we're going to give through more channels perhaps, but we are going to give more,'" Uth said.

"I think the... most important thing is that we engage the nations and that we are able to be effective and have the greatest impact starting here and [going to] the nations."

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DALLAS (BP) — An iPhone and iPod touch app for GuideStone Financial Resources participants is now available for free download at [www.GuideStone.org/mobileapp](http://www.GuideStone.org/mobileapp) and in the Apple app store. With the app, GuideStone participants can check their retirement account balance and the 10 most recent transactions on their accounts. Participants also can view their accounts, retirement plans and fund selections; check insurance coverage amounts and premiums; and see policy dependents. A mobile experience for the BlackBerry Torch and Android-based devices is available at [www.MyGuideStone.mobi](http://www.MyGuideStone.mobi). GuideStone also is in the process of connecting to other Web-enabled mobile devices.

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# The wonder of the Cooperative Program

It's human nature to grow accustomed to conveniences that have been around since before most of us were born. Virtually all of us grew up with a private-line telephone in our homes, but our great-grandparents were no less than amazed at the wires and handsets that transmitted their voices over party-line connections to distant locations at the speed of electricity. In contrast, young people today can't imagine a time when the ubiquitous cell phone didn't exist and "Internet" wasn't even a word in the English language.

The 75 Million Campaign was introduced to Southern Baptists in 1919, conceived as a way to provide in one package the funding for all missions and ministries from the local church through the state Baptist conventions and ultimately to the Southern Baptist Convention. The 75 Million Campaign didn't achieve that lofty goal, but it provided the practical base that led to the development of the Cooperative Program in 1925.

The Cooperative Program proved to be a roaring success, and continues today. It represents nothing less than the remarkable joining together of individual Baptists, churches, state Baptist conventions, and the Southern Baptist Convention — each a separate and independent entity — to accomplish the Great Commission as enunciated by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:18-20.

We tend to take for granted those things that seem to have been in wide use forever, if only because our frame of reference is so short. We forget that Disneyworld, antibiotics, satellites, NASCAR, air conditioning, jet flight, fiber optics, and literally thousands of other items we use every day were invented and commercialized within the last 100 years — and some in a much shorter time frame than that. It just seems that life has always been this easy and everything has been taken care of for us.

So it is with the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' all-encompassing funding system that has made us one of the

strongest Great Commission-centered organizations in the history of Christiandom. It has worked so well for so long that we take it for granted. We shouldn't.

In the beginning — of the Southern Baptist Convention, that is — many groups and entities approached individual churches and appealed for financial support for their individual ministries. This was called the "societal method," which proved tiresome to church congregations who found themselves listening to just about as many financial appeals as sermons. The societal method often resulted in undue competition among missions groups who were all chasing a limited number of dollars. It created winners and losers, and depended too much on exaggeration and emotional manipulation in order to acquire those precious few available dollars.

meets to decide how Southern Baptist missions will be funded.

Since the inception of the Cooperative Program, Mississippi Baptists have given a breathtaking total of \$830,000,000 to the Cooperative Program. The total for the first year (1925) was \$209,404. The first year to top \$1,000,000 came in 1952. It took 28 years (1980) to reach \$10,000,000, and only ten years more (1990) to reach \$20,000,000. Thirty million dollars was achieved in 2002, and the all-time record was set in 2008, with \$35,088,617 given. (Source: [www.cpmmissions.net](http://www.cpmmissions.net))

Glory to God! May Mississippi Baptists, and Southern Baptists on an even larger scale, continue to be found faithful in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus through our sacrificial support for the Cooperative Program — and may we never, never take it for granted.

## GUEST OPINION:

### Keep on discipling

By Trevin Wax  
Nashville

use of pouring your life into them if they wind up like the other? What if they let you down too? What if they are only here for a season?"

You are not alone. The Apostle Paul once counted Demas as a fellow worker but in Paul's last letter, he tells Timothy, "Do your best to come to me soon. For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica" (2 Timothy 4:10). It's not hard to read between the lines and sense Paul's sorrow. He wants to see Timothy (at least partly) because Demas has deserted him.

Of course, Paul's "biggest concern is that Demas' soul is in peril. His former disciple's love for the world is a demonstration of his lack of love for God. Make no mistake, Paul is concerned with Demas' soul and destiny but that's not all

that grieves the apostle. Paul needs companionship, partnership, and encouragement, so he tells Timothy to come to him soon. Paul is saying, "I need you, Timothy. Demas is gone."

In other words, "It hurts. Bad." In that moment of grief, you've got two choices. The first choice is to let your hurt turn into bitterness. The root of bitterness will keep you from giving yourself to the next person God brings your way. Bitterness constructs a wall around your heart in order to guard you from future hurt. Go this direction, and you will never have another Demas with which to deal — but you won't ever raise up a Titus, either.

The other choice is to stay grounded in the Gospel, the only news that brings joy in the midst of pain. That's what Paul says: "What's the

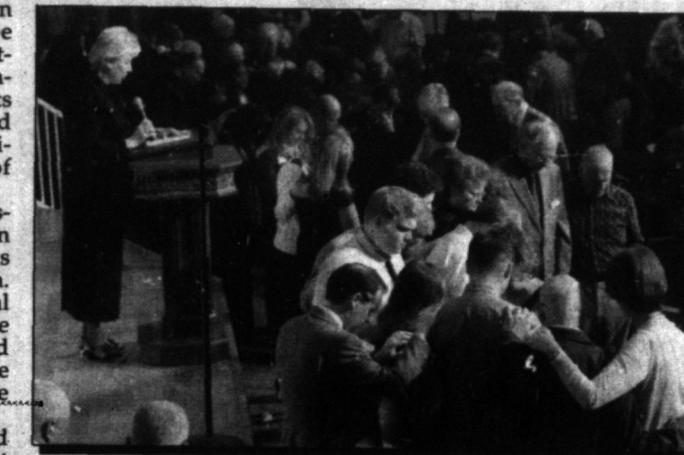
Wax is editor of TGM (Theology-Gospel-Mission), a small-group curriculum being developed by LifeWay Christian Resources. He has served in pastoral roles in Baptist churches in the U.S. and Romania. This column first appeared at [TrevinWax.com](http://TrevinWax.com), and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

# NAMB sending out 81 new missionaries

BRANDON, Fla. (BP) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention commissioned 81 new missionaries and chaplains at a commissioning service attended by some 800 people at First Church in Brandon, Fla., on March 20.

Wong said the Mandarin Chinese to whom he'll be ministering — highly educated professionals such as computer experts and accountants — are basically amoral and don't understand the sacrificial, unconditional love of Christ and Christians.

Among those also com-



missioned was U.S. Navy chaplain Stephen Griffin, 30, and his wife Julie of Portsmouth, Va. Stationed at Norfolk Naval Station, Griffin soon will leave Julie and their two-month-old daughter Tierzah for active duty in Afghanistan where he will minister to U.S. Marines.

"Julie and I prayed and

cried over my assignment but

finally we just came to the

conclusion that it's an opportunity

God is putting out there for us.

We just said, 'Roger that, God, we'll do it, but we're sober

about the difficulties.'

Julie and Tierzah will stay

behind in Portsmouth during

her husband's six-month

deployment.

Arnold and Teresa Wong were

commissioned as Mission Service

Corps (MSC) missionaries for

church planting in Richmond

Hill, Ontario, Canada.

The

Wongs formerly were missionar-

ies to China with the

International Mission Board of

the Southern Baptist Convention,

based in Richmond, Va.

"We'll be planting churches

among the

60,000

Mandarin-

speaking

Chinese

in the

Richmond

Hill

area," Wong

said, noting that 99.9% of them

are non-Christians.

They've

never

been

exposed

to

the

Gospel.

"It's a challenge to make

them

understand

the

Gospel."

Armed with faith in the

power

of

the

Gospel

and confidence that God's plan cannot be thwarted, Paul moves forward. He keeps making plans. "Bring the parchments. Bring Mark too. Bring my cloak." Hurt or no hurt, Paul maintains a steadfast joy in the sovereignty of God as he keeps on pursuing the kingdom and proclaiming the Gospel.

Pray for your Demas. Weep

over him. Beg God for him, but

don't let Demas steal your joy.

Don't let Demas rob you of your

passion

for discipling others.

God will continue to bring people to you. The reason you can keep working is because the

Gospel

never

stops.

People like

Demas

will come and go.

Yes, your next disciple may

be a Demas too, but it also

could be that the next one is

your Timothy.

4. By faith, I invite Jesus

Christ

into my life. From this

time on, I want to live in a loving

relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)



## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

### THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Heart disease is identified as the number one killer of Baptist ministers in 1960. About 57% of pastoral deaths are attributed to this disease.

## CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD

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URCQ GC UGY, IHY

NVC RQ RA QVIQ

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NGMDYXAQ VIPX

IAWXY GC VRF, IHY VY

NGMDY VIPX URPXH

QVXX DRPRHU NIQXE.

BGVH CGME: QXH

Clue: B = J

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Four: Forty-three



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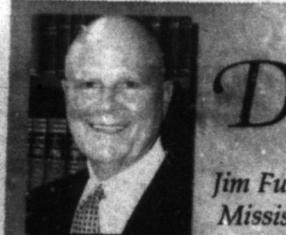
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THE BAPTIST RECORD



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Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## • Prayer Points

Prayer is our communication with God. It is not just a mental exercise. In fact, it is our communicating with the Creator and Him with us. However, as we pray it is important to understand that God's communication with us may come in the shape of Spirit-directed impressions, creative thoughts and heavenly assurance that He is with us. It is never without the undergirding and the framework of the Word of God.

Some years ago there was a book written that was titled, *Conversations With God*. It was not a Christian book so much as it was an author's musings about talking to God. The responses that he received from God were in the same vein. They were just musings of what he thought about God. For instance, one of the things the author said was that in talking with God that God told him, "What you think is what I think." The problem with that reasoning is that it is certainly anything but biblically sound.

God never tells us that our thoughts are His thoughts. When we pray, we should always keep doing so in the context of the revealed Word of God in scripture. We can be wrong, while God's Word is never in error. That kind of warped thinking about

praying leads me to share three important truths about our conversations with God in prayer.

**God's thoughts are not always our thoughts.** In fact, the whole story of scripture and beyond is that everywhere you look in the society in which we live is a reminder that God does not think like we think. Isaiah says that God says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways (Isa. 55:8)." We must keep that in mind. If our thoughts were God's

thoughts, God would be as corrupt as we are. His character would be filled with all of the wrong, evil, hate, and bitterness that can creep into our lives. God's thoughts are not our thoughts. He sees, speaks, and responds in grace, love, and mercy. He understands how destructive our sinfulness can be.

**Our thoughts are to be shaped by God's thoughts.** It is the call from God and the intent of God that we be reshaped by divine thinking. Our prayer life should never be one that simply wants to

pull God into our arena so that He will be like us. We are to walk with Him in the light of His Word in a way that would allow Him to shape and frame a new and redeemed thought life in us.

**Our God-guided thoughts shape everything about us.** Scripture says, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he (Prov. 23:7)." Our actions, our attitudes, and our aspirations all grow out of the seedbed of our thoughts. Therefore, it is imperative that we not just fill our minds and our hearts with thoughts that are untethered from the truth of God's Word. Scripture clearly says in the words of the Psalmist, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee (Ps. 119:11)."

As you talk with God, listen to Him as He guides you. Look in His Word for affirmation that the path you are following is centered in His thoughts and His will.

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

## STAFF CHANGES

**Raymond Road Church, Jackson, has called Cindy Sansing to serve as children's minister. Her previous place of service was Liberty Church, Flowood.**

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**[LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER]** at a small church in the Hattiesburg area. If you are interested please e-mail your resume to [Lisamapp@hotmail.com](mailto:Lisamapp@hotmail.com)

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**SELF CREEK SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH, OKTIBBEKE COUNTY, IS SEEK**

# 2010 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM CENTURY CLUB GIVING

CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORIES BASED ON CHURCH OFFERINGS REPORTED ON THE 2009-2010 ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIFTS ARE ACTUAL RECEIPTS POSTED BY THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD FROM OCTOBER 2009-SEPTEMBER 2010.

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$25,000 and below

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
NOXUBEE/MASHULAVILLE	23,505.00
PANOLA/PHARSALIA	24,131.00
CHOCTAW/CROSSROADS	21,368.00
MID-DELTA/MOUNT VERNON	18,102.00
COV-JEFF DAVIS/ANTIOCH	24,828.00
CLARKE/PLEASANT GROVE	22,261.00
KEMPER/BLUFF SPRINGS	16,000.00
MARSHALL/CAYCE	24,848.00
METRO/LEARNED	15,365.00
JACKSON/FBC ORANGE GROVE	16,988.00

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$25,000 - \$39,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
UNION CO/MYTLE	33,807.00
GOLLEN TRIANGLE/WAKE FOREST	26,056.00
CARROLL/SHLOH	36,289.00
LAWRENCE/SHALOM	25,914.00
KEMPER/CENTER RIDGE	35,587.00
LEBANON/BEACON	37,164.00
YAZOO/ROCKY SPRINGS	34,856.00
MONROE/SPLUNGE	39,951.00
YAZOO/EDEN	39,710.00
PRENTISS/WEST SIDE	26,314.00

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$40,000 - \$54,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
WESTOVER/NEW HOPE	53,582.00
NEWTON/ROCK BRANCH	53,150.00
GULF COAST/PERKINSON	52,953.00
CALHOUN/OLD TOWN	41,051.00
GOLDEN TRIANGLE/NEW MONTPELIER	48,891.00
MID-DELTA/LINN	44,750.00
LAUDERDALE/CENTER GROVE	54,990.00
SMITH/CONCORD	53,118.00
WINSTON/DRY CREEK	47,865.00
PEARL RIVER/NEW LIFE	54,046.00

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$55,000 - \$74,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
CALHOUN/SABUGLA	60,780.00
CARROLL/LIBERTY	67,781.00
YAZOO/DAK GROVE	60,904.00
WEAVER/LUMINA GROVE	62,739.00
MARION/EMMANUEL	71,000.00
WAYNE/WHITEHORN	63,399.00
LAWRENCE/CAESAR	70,526.00
JACKSON/KREULE AVE	75,428.00
CLARKE/WHITE GROVE	71,286.00
MID-DELTA/MOUNT VERNON	60,896.00

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$75,000 - \$99,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
MONTGOMERY/FBC VIMONIA	65,226.00
CALHOUN/WHITEHORN	65,045.00
MID-DELTA/STATION	61,621.00
CLARKE/WHITE GROVE	60,030.00
LEBANON/WHITEHORN	59,731.00
WEAVER/LUMINA	60,723.00
LAUDERDALE/WHITEHORN	65,421.00
YAZOO/DAK GROVE	71,000.00
MARION/WHITEHORN	64,896.00
JACKSON/KREULE AVE	62,748.00

Dear Giver,

Thank you so much for your commitment to tithing. Your generous offering through the Cooperative Program provided support for a loving missionary family to live in our village. They blessed us with staple food items, clothing for our children, and books for our school. Their kindness intrigued us, and we began to attend prayer meetings in their home. Over several months, we began to learn more about Christianity and the Bible. The missionaries taught us Jesus' love by their actions. My wife, daughters, son, and I are new believers and encouraging our friends to attend the missionaries' home church. Thank you! Joseph, Age 43, Congo, Africa

Dear Giver,

Thank you for your heart for giving. Your church offering is providing a scholarship for me to attend seminary. I am a wife and mother of two small children, and without this scholarship, it would not be possible for me to go back to school. I am working toward my master's degree in marriage and family counseling, and look forward to helping hurting families and individuals. Thank you. Marissa, Age 34, Mill Valley, California

Dear Giver,

Thank you for giving an offering to your church. Your money helps my church provide a safe place for kids like me [to go] after school. We play fun games, make neat artwork, and always get a healthy snack and supper. The teachers tell us that God loved us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for us. Without our after-school program, a lot of my friends would be by themselves until their moms got off work. Your offering gives us a place to go where we feel loved. Thank you! Kayra, Age 9, The Bronx, New York

Dear Giver,

Thank you for your tithe. Through the Cooperative Program, you have provided funding for retired ministers and their wives who could otherwise not afford high-skilled nursing care at the Baptist Home. After pastoring 40 years in a small, country church, I don't have enough money saved to provide the care my wife needed when she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Your gift is blessing us with a nice place to live as we continue to age together. Thank you! Bill, Age 81, Okmulgee, Oklahoma

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$100,000 - \$149,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
ADAMS/CLIFF TEMPLE	149,775.00
NESHoba/SPRING CREEK	130,032.00
MID-DELTA/SKENE	133,884.00
CALHOUN/PLEASANT HILL	122,795.00
SCOTT/BRANCH	148,382.00
NEWTON/SULPHUR SPRINGS	139,506.00
TISHOMINGO/NEW PROSPECT	142,925.00
RANKIN/ROCK HILL	110,518.00
LAFAYETTE/COLLEGE HILL HEIGHTS	137,438.00
JACKSON/RIVERSIDE	149,571.00

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$150,000 - \$249,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
SCOTT/SPRINGFIELD	212,914.00
PONTOTOC/ECRU	243,077.00
BENTON/TIPPAH/DUMAS	213,560.00
LINCOLN/NEW PROSPECT	204,534.00
PEARL RIVER/CENTRAL	242,422.00
HOLMES/FBC LEXINGTON	240,554.00
RANKIN/PUCKETT	228,648.00
LEBANON/RAWLS SPRINGS	205,754.00
RANKIN/CATO	168,977.00
ADAMS/HIGHLAND	242,179.00

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$250,000 - \$499,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
RANKIN/PELAHATCHIE	456,623.00
PERRY/FBC RICHTON	407,622.00
PIKE/CENTRAL	391,738.00
COV-JEFF DAVIS/FBC COLLINS	365,951.00
WAYNE/PLEASANT GROVE	321,199.00
LAFAYETTE/ANCHOR	481,805.00
GEORGE/GREENE/BARTON	323,556.00
LAWRENCE/NEW HEBRON	306,137.00
COV-JEFF DAVIS/WHITE SAND	317,510.00
LAUDERDALE/WESTWOOD	436,141.00

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$500,000 - \$999,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
MONTGOMERY/FBC VIMONIA	606,676.00
LAUDERDALE/FBC COLLINSVILLE	628,263.00
CHICKASAW/FBC HOUSTON	670,101.00
METRO/HILL CREST	902,002.00
SIMPSON/PBC MAGEE	987,911.00
LAWRENCE/MONTICELLO	744,296.00
JONES/INDIAN SPRINGS	783,004.00
RANKIN/MCLAURIN HEIGHTS	680,006.00
MARION/NORTH COLUMBIA	686,542.00
ALCORN/WHEELER GROVE	728,284.00

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$1,000,000 and above

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
METRO/FBC JACKSON	10,236,616.00
METRO/BROADMOOR	8,460,467.00
METRO/HORNISON HEIGHTS	5,642,011.00
LEE/HARRISBURG	4,800,275.00
GOLDEN TRIANGLE/FAIRVIEW	3,847,205.00
LEE/CALVARY	2,263,979.00
YOKES/FBC WINDON	4,107,177.00
METRO/FBC RANDON	5,201,496.00
METRO/COLONIAL HEIGHTS	4,034,716.00
NORTH CENTRAL/EMANUEL	2,789,044.00

... Thank You

"But generous people plan to do what is generous and they stand firm in their generosity." Isaiah 32:8



2011 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST  
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BUDGET

**Global Missions/SBC**

17.50%	International Mission Board	\$5,966,500
7.98%	North American Mission Board	\$2,720,727
7.78%	Theological Education	\$2,645,710
1.19%	SBC Operations	\$405,722
0.57%	Ethics/Religious Liberty Comm.	\$194,338
<b>25.89%</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,203,012</b>

**Christian Education**

8.99%	Mississippi College	\$3,064,543
6.85%	William Carey University	\$2,335,086
3.32%	Blue Mountain College	\$1,131,424
1.12%	Board of Ministerial Education	\$381,676
0.17%	Education Commission	\$58,473
<b>20.45%</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,971,205</b>

**State Benevolent Institutions**

2.64%	Church Retirement & Protection	\$900,000
1.00%	Baptist Children's Village	\$659,902
1.20%	MS Baptist Foundation	\$435,045
1.07%	Christian Action Commission	\$305,764
0.21%	Historical Commission	\$72,736
0.03%	MS Baptist Health Systems	\$10,000
<b>7.19%</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,453,447</b>

**State Missions**

6.03%	Collegiate Ministry	\$2,056,848
2.84%	Woman's Missionary Union	\$900,201
2.10%	Men's Ministry	\$715,904
1.88%	Mission Mobilization	\$540,426
1.50%	Mission Strategy	\$333,097
1.37%	Church Planning	\$462,918
0.57%	Stewardship	\$297,506
<b>16.49%</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,812,063</b>

**Executive Leadership & Communication**

2.41%	Business/Financial Services	\$821,209
1.94%	The Baptist Record	\$526,505
1.48%	Executive Administration	\$502,977
1.30%	Communication Services	\$442,637
0.92%	Computer Information Services	\$314,774
0.42%	Convention & Convention Comm.	\$142,775
<b>8.37%</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,277,751</b>

**Church Growth Ministries**

2.45%	Discipleship & Family Ministry	\$336,560
2.10%	Capital Needs	\$715,000
2.05%	Sunday School	\$698,922
1.60%	Church Music	\$544,024
1.36%	Church Growth	\$469,172
1.20%	Pastor/Leadership Development	\$408,651
0.91%	Evangelism	\$311,747
0.85%	Church-Minister Relations	\$290,652
<b>12.54%</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,273,710</b>

**GRAND TOTAL**

**\$34,094,322**

# Shiloh has heart for missions

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Shiloh Church is located in the small community of Sontag in Lawrence County, northwest of Monticello. In this rural Mississippi setting, the church has participated in significant ministries over the years and has flourished. In the belief of the pastor, that's because of a commitment to missions — especially through the Cooperative Program.

The church has been ministering to the community since 1845. Andy Fullington is the pastor. "God is doing some great things here," Fullington said. "He is moving in the hearts of people and they really seem on fire for God right now... I think a revival has broken out."

The church recently dedicated a new fellowship hall. "It's been a privilege just to be a part of what God is doing here," Fullington said. "This April, I will have been pastor two years, but I did a six month interim prior to that. This is my first pastorate, my first church, and the people really stepped out on faith when they called me. We're kind of — how should I word this? — in the middle of the country, but people come from all over."

"Missions are at the heart of Shiloh, and have always been at the heart of Shiloh," Fullington continued. "not only in just giving, but in serving. We still have a great program for RAs, GAs, and Acteens. We'll have in the high 80's (in attendance) on Wednesdays, and Sunday School will run from 110-120. Discipleship training will run from 70-80 on average."

The church has been giving more than 20% to the Cooperative Program for years. "I looked back to the 1980's to see when the church was really giving. In the late 80's and early 90's, we were giving 23% - 24%. From 1995 to 2006, the church gave 25%. The church went through a period without a pastor and things got a little rough, but even then the church was able to give 20% and this doesn't include Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and other special offerings."

In recent times the church has maintained giving to the Cooperative Program at 27.5%. "We've been able to do that even in the middle of a building campaign," said Fullington. "The Lord is working through the people here. It's very humbling. We're mostly just middle class, hard working folks who believe in giving generously to the Lord."

Even while we've been maintaining the 20%-plus level of giving, we've gone through three building programs," Fullington stated. "One was the educational wing which was paid off in five years. Another was the remodeling of our nursery, and that's been paid off, and a remodeling of our sanctu-

ary, which is paid off. In a lot of churches, missions are one of the first areas cut when the church is building but we've been able to maintain at least 20% for well over 20 years."

Fullington received the call to ministry about three years ago. He started seminary at the New Orleans extension branch. He owns a landscaping business. His wife Donna teaches at Hillcrest School in Jackson and the couple has two children.

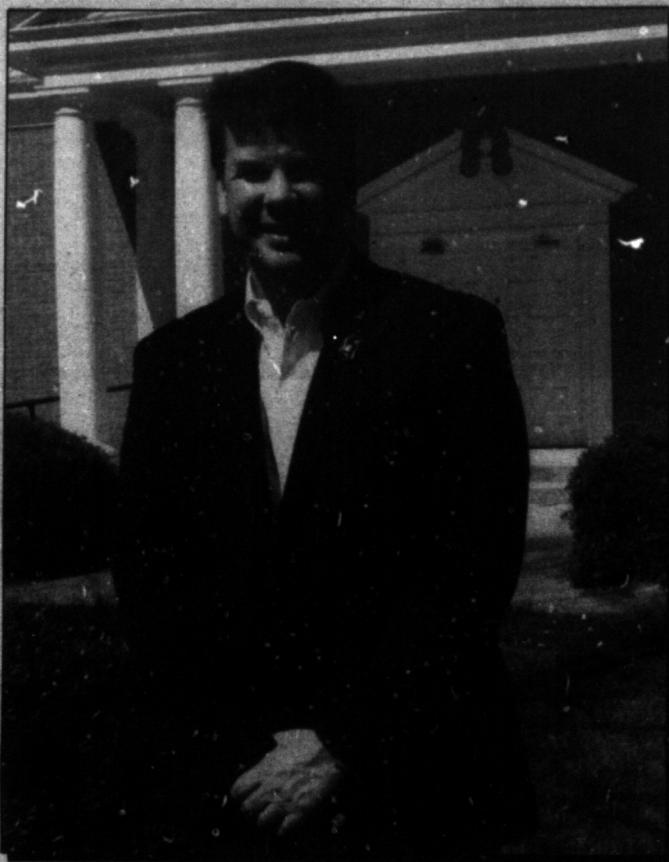
Fullington is bivocational. "As long as the Lord allows me to be bivocational, I'll keep the landscaping business," Fullington said, "but the work of the church always takes precedence."

The church has been loving and faithful, according to Fullington. He commutes daily from Terry. "That has been good, because our youth pastor has been able to take advantage of the parsonage," he said. "He was able to come on board after I'd been here a month. He's the first youth pastor this church has had."

Fullington believes part of his responsibility as pastor is to "sort of inject an excitement for missions into the church. If the pastor isn't excited about going and being involved in missions, it's going to be difficult to inspire the rest of the church."

The church has a huge number of children, according to Fullington. "We had 125 in Vacation Bible School. When you drive down these county roads, you don't see that many houses, but they just come out of the woods."

"We give all credit to the Lord for what He has done," Fullington said. "Missions were at the heart of Jesus. We're His hands and feet. Shiloh means 'place of peace,' and it's been a wonderful place of peace for my family and me."



1. Byrd Memorial Preaching Award at Mississippi College



2. William Carey University board of trustees



3. Young Authors Celebration at William Carey University



MARCH 31, 2011

## COLLEGE NEWS

1. Ben VanHorn (center) has been awarded the 2011 Byrd Memorial Preaching Award at Mississippi College. He is the son of Wayne and Terri VanHorn of Clinton. Wayne VanHorn is the dean of the MC School of Christian Studies and a former pastor in Mississippi. Congratulating Ben VanHorn are Harrell Byrd (left) of Brandon, a 1946 MC alumnus, and Burn Page, interim chairman of the MC Department of Christian Studies and director of the Institute of Christian Leadership.



4. Spirit Day At William Carey University



5. Blue Mountain College NAIA Scholar-Athletes

each athlete was required to post a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. BMC is the only NAIA school in Mississippi to have players selected, and also scored more placements than any other team in the Trans South Athletic Conference.

Visit us online at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)

Record

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. New Hope Church, Foxworth: Revival, April 2-3; Sat., fish fry 5 p.m. followed by 6:30 p.m. service; Sun. 10:30 a.m. followed by covered dish luncheon, and 6:30 p.m.; Lavern Summerlin, speaker; Mike Hulsey, music.
2. Liberty Hill Church, Pope: Revival, April 3-6; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, speaker; Mark Jones, music; Jay Anderson, pastor.
3. Ephesus Church, Scott Assoc.: Revival, April 3-6; Sun., high attendance in Sunday School 10 a.m. followed by worship 11 a.m. and pot-blessed dinner; Sun. evening 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m. Paul Smith, speaker; Danny Harrison, music; Jim Everett, pastor.
4. Sunflower Church, Sunflower: Revival, April 3-6; Tommy Arinder, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music.
5. Tuckers Crossing Church, Jones Assoc.: Revival, April 10-13; Rick Fenson, speaker; Tim Hubbard, music; Eddie Bryant, pastor.
6. Enon Church, Batesville: Revival, April 17-20; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Paul Middleton, speaker; Keith Bolen, music and pastor.

# Dislocation becoming way of life for Mideast workers

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Being ready at a moment's notice to board a plane and evacuate a country is a reality for many Christian workers in North Africa and the Middle East.

Trying to share the Gospel in nations with unstable governments is difficult in the best of circumstances, but as refugees flee the crisis in Libya and other nations such as Yemen, Egypt, and Syria continue to struggle with political unrest, the task is increasingly challenging.

Though people are turning to Jesus during this time of conflict, Christian workers say the environment is far from ideal for ministry. "It really is challenging trying to minister in this climate," said Christian worker Sam Morgan (not his real name). "There are news cameras everywhere," Morgan said. "If you go to downtown where everybody is protesting, and you're the only American, immediately people are attracted to you because they feel like you're there to stand behind their cause."

Some of the people Morgan meets with and ministers to

have pleaded with him to join the protests in their country, but Morgan always declines. "We're not here to fight for [that] cause," he said. "We're here to fight for the cause of Christ."

Morgan said his biggest concern is whether he and his family may have to evacuate and leave behind years of ministry at the ring of a telephone. "There have been moments... where I wonder if we're going to be on a plane tomorrow morning. One day you're in a country, the next day you're not. All those friends and that whole life you had, it's gone. It's hard," he said.

While tensions in the Middle East have been front page news in recent weeks, Morgan said political protests and conflict often are a way of life among his people group. "In our country, they burn tires every Friday, and they have since we [moved] here," he said. "Then it's over, and Saturday goes on and everybody is with their families and we move on and do our ministry."

Avoiding awkward political conversations can, at times, be



OPEN TO JESUS — As unrest across North Africa and the Middle East continues, Christian workers go about their daily lives, building relationships and showing the love of Christ even as they prepare to move at a moment's notice. The workers believe many of the people of the Arab world, some shown here in the teeming streets of an unidentified city in this undated file photo, are open to hearing about Jesus. (BP photo)

## Prophecy Conference

April 3 - 6, 2011

Sunday 8 am; 10:30 am; 7 pm

Monday-Wednesday  
Noon Lunch & 7 pm

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nearly impossible," said Marshall Jackson (not his real name), who has ministered to people in the Middle East for the past six years. "Their questions are often fairly pointed and opinionated," Jackson said. "Most of the time, they're not asking you to find [an answer]; they're asking you to let you know what they think. If you feel someone really pushing your buttons or you're getting hot under the collar, just walk away."

Jones befriended a single mother, Amal (not her real name), and her 11-year-old son. Jones met Amal in 2004 through the help of Christian volunteers from the States. Amal, who is an Arab Muslim, eventually became a believer in Christ.

Life for her has been difficult. Others often look down on single mothers in that part of the world. "She has a horror story a mile long," Jones said. "She's been beaten by her brothers. She's been held at gunpoint by her neighbor. She had to evacuate during two separate times of war. She's been without a job, just barely making ends meet."

The best and typically most successful way to handle difficult questions or discussions is handling them in a loving way. "Just simply say, 'but you know Americans love [the people in that country],' Jackson said.

Ultimately, Jesus is the best example of how to handle difficult questions, he added, saying,

"None of us would be as good as Jesus [with tough questions]."

Amy Jones (not her real name) has found that the Middle Eastern women she ministers to are open to hearing about the hope Jesus can offer them. She and her husband, Justin (not his real name) have worked among Middle Eastern people for more than six years.

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Despite times of uncertainty, people's hearts throughout

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS APRIL 3, 2011

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### Balance Grief With Hope

John 11:20-27,32-36,43-44

By Bobby McKay

How many gifts have you received that you can remember? Think about it. Go through the many memories you may have of birthdays, anniversaries and Christmases of yesteryear. I have a handful that I recall from my childhood and a few from recent years. I had an aunt and uncle that were in the education profession and they made it their mission that every child in the family was provided with a significant amount of school supplies each Christmas. The package would usually come in the form of a large garbage bag, tied at the top with a piece of yarn. The contents typically contained the following: 5000 pieces of notebook paper, 100 pencils, 75 pens, and a book about the planets. While each of these presents were often

times needed, they were a bit unusual for a 10 year old boy that was anticipating a new football or video game.

Did you know that God gives us a strange gift as well? That gift is called grief. The package that we might not expect, is sometimes hard to unwrap, but definitely needed to heal; is grief. These next three studies will lead us through the maze of grief. For each of us to benefit fully from this study we must be honest about our own struggles and difficulties. God has blessed me with an incredible church to pastor. There is one thing I have discovered that I had not foreseen. As the Spirit moves and the church grows, something else is taking place. People are becoming more real in their struggles and heartaches. I felt led to teach a

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### Response #1: Intellectual

In John 11:20-27, we read of the sister duo, Mary and Martha. Martha is quick to confront Christ with her belief that He could have prevented Lazarus from dying. In her mind, Jesus was too late to make a difference. She was

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



4. Slayden Church, Slayden



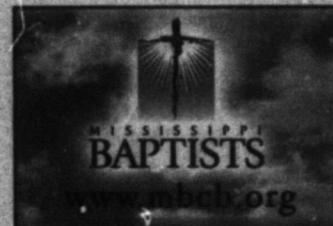
5. Hickory Grove Church, Sumrall



6. First Church, Plantersville



7. First Church, Potts Camp



1. Crestview Church, Petal, will host Friends and Family Day on April 3. Sunday School (9:45 a.m.) goal is 120 and worship service (11 a.m.) goal is 160. Pot luck luncheon will follow worship service.

2. Chunky Church, Chunky, will host a retirement reception for Wayne Campbell, pastor for 27 years, on April 3. Service/celebration will begin at 10 a.m., with church-wide fellowship lunch to follow.

3. First Church, Lumberton, will host the March 26 live webcast of Rediscover God in America featuring a number of nationally-known figures. The event is free and lunch will be available for purchase. The webcast will run from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and the public is invited.

4. The Sanctuary Choir and Drama Team of Slayden Church, Slayden, presented The Christmas Song during the holidays. Mark Mathis, music director. The church also surpassed its goal of \$5,000 for the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions.

5. Hickory Grove Church, Sumrall, on March 13 honored Emma Lee Broome with a luncheon in recognition of 55 years of service as church pianist.

6. Children from First Church, Plantersville, recently held a weekend retreat at Clarko State Park near Quitman. As part of the retreat, the Praise Players Handbell Choir performed at Carmel Church and Russell Church in the Meridian area.

7. First Church, Potts Camp, ordained Herbert Luther to the Gospel ministry on June 27, 2010. Pictured is Luther (left) and pastor Wayne Gullet.

8. Grace Fellowship, Hatley, on February 13 ordained four men to the Gospel ministry and four men to serve as deacons. Ordained to the ministry were Kevin Crook, Shane Lindsey, Chip Harmon, and Justin Simmons.

Ordained as deacons were Joey Umfress, Brian Duffy, Daniel Dabbs, and Tim Watson. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Umfress, Crook, Duffy, Lindsey, Dabbs, (middle row, left to right) Watson, Harmon, Jim Harrington (Monroe Association missions director), Simmons, (back row, from left) Jack Dauphin (pastor, Trinity Church) and Danny Carl

Burks (pastor, Grace Fellowship).

9. Grace Church, Philadelphia, ordained Tim Moore (center), the church's minister of music, to the Gospel ministry. Pictured are (from left) George Terry Sciple, Moore, and pastor Chester Carlisle.



8. Grace Fellowship, Hatley



9. Moore ordination at Grace Church, Philadelphia

This Easter  
Treat Your  
Front Yard  
To A New  
Look...



Join The 2011  
Easter Cross Witness  
Unify + Celebrate + Testify

To Order Crosses Go To  
[EasterCross.org](http://EasterCross.org)  
214-900-5872

